



LESSON PLAN

Stepping Up

Topic: **Juggling Responsibilities**
Subject: **English/Character Ed**

Grade Level: **Middle/High School**
Time: **60 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn about common challenges facing teens with a deployed parent and gain perspective on what it's like to juggle many responsibilities. Students will explore strategies to deal with competing responsibilities in their own lives and role-play a common teen dilemma in a small-group activity.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Crossroads video, titled "Where Were You?," on MilitaryKidsConnect.org teen site
- List of *Teen Dilemmas*
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access
- Whiteboard/chalkboard/large sheets of paper
- Chalk/markers for large and small groups

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (20 minutes)

- Teacher sets up the video:
 - Explain that kids from military families experience many transitions. Parents may be deployed for long periods or multiple times. Some parents go to war and might be in combat or helping take care of hurt people. As a result, many military kids have to face competing challenges while learning to accept that their parent is away and possibly in danger.
 - Cue "Where Were You?" video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website, including three different endings.

Class Discussion (5 minutes)

- Teacher-led discussion of the video
 - Which of the three endings did you prefer? Why?
 - What parts of Marcus' story are unique to military youth?
 - What are other challenges/crossroads teens often face? (Teacher can list these "dilemmas" on a flip chart, and they can be the role-play dilemmas, or teacher can prompt discussion using *List of Teen Dilemmas*.)

Small-Group Discussion and Activity (35 minutes)

- Students break into small groups of 3–4 people.
- Each small group brainstorms strategies for solving dilemmas. As a group, students develop a role-play for the dilemma and solutions.
- Small groups present their role-play to the larger group.
- Teacher summarizes points of discussion and encourages students to view other Crossroads videos.

Tips

- If the class is large or the discussion expansive, the small groups may span more than 55 minutes and need more than one session.
- If role-play is not feasible, the small groups can do a panel where they present the "issues" and discuss solutions.

List of Teen Dilemmas

The following list contains common teen dilemmas. Cut them out and paste them onto an index card. Provide one dilemma to each group.

Ask each group to discuss the dilemma and come to a consensus on strategies to solve the problem. Tell the groups that they will role-play their dilemma and solution for the larger group.

Possible Dilemmas: (cut on dotted line)

Hanging out with my family **or** my friends

Focusing on work to earn money **or** focusing on schoolwork

Hanging with friends **or** finishing homework

Fitting in with the cool crowd

Witnessing someone being bullied

Witnessing a friend breaking a rule
